

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Pending claims

Claims 1-92 as filed are pending.

Claim amended in the instant amendment

Claim 88 is amended. The amendments to claim 88 merely place claim 88 in independent form. No new matter is introduced by the present amendment. Thus, after entry of the instant amendment, claims 42-55 and 88-92 are under consideration.

The Restriction Requirement

The Patent Office has alleged that the pending claims of the application are directed to eight separate and distinct inventions under 35 U.S.C. §121:

The instant application has been restricted to one of the following inventions under 35 U.S.C. §121:

Group I: Claims 1-23 and 67-85, drawn to an isolated nucleic acid molecule or fragment thereof useful as probes in hybridization.

Group II: Claims 24-39, 64, and 86-87, drawn to a purified polypeptide or variants thereof and an antibody which specifically binds to said purified polypeptide.

Group III: Claims 40-41, drawn to a method of producing a purified polypeptide which involves a host cell.

Group IV: Claims 42-55 and 88-92, drawn to a method of mutagenesis.

Group V: Claims 56-60, drawn to a computer readable medium having stored thereon a nucleic acid sequence or a polypeptide sequence.

Group VI: Claims 61-63, drawn to a method of comparing nucleic acid or polypeptide sequences and identifying differences therein as compared to reference nucleic acid or polypeptide sequences.

Group VII: Claim 65, drawn to a method of catalyzing the hydrolysis of cellulose.

Group VIII: Claim 66, drawn to an assay for identifying functional polypeptide fragments or variant thereof.

The Election


In response to the Restriction Requirement, Applicants elect Group IV, claims 42-55 and 88-92, drawn to a method of mutagenesis, with traverse.

Applicant believes that no fee is required for submission of this Response. However, if a fee is required, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct such fee from the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 06-1050. Please credit any overpayment to the above-noted Deposit Account.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 858 678 5070.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 11/25/02


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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the claims:

Claim 88 has been amended as follows:

88. (Amended) A method for modifying small molecules, comprising mixing a polypeptide encoded by a polynucleotide comprising a sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:1 and variants thereof having at least about 50% identity to SEQ ID NO:1 and encoding a polypeptide having endoglucanase activity [of claim 1 or fragments thereof] with a small molecule to produce a modified small molecule.